



The President's Daily Brief

20 June 1969

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I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

VIETNAM

Ambassador Walsh's conversation with Soviet diplomat Oberemko on 16 June provides the best insight into Communist tactics in Paris since the US meeting with Le Duc Tho nearly three weeks ago. Like Tho, Oberemko said that the Communists want the US actively involved in the resolution of political issues. He insisted that the main stumbling block at present was Hanoi's uncertainty about specific allied terms for a political settlement. He repeated several times that the US must make some "concrete" proposals for steps leading to elections. He strongly implied that the Communist proposal for a "provisional coalition" was made for openers and that Hanoi is waiting for the US to make a counterproposal. He recommended specifically that we discuss where troops would be during the period leading up to the elections and "who would be in the government."

Oberemko's concentration on the need for "active, energetic, and realistic" US proposals for an interim allocation of political power in South Vietnam is right in line with Hanoi's emphasis at present. He avoided dwelling on the Communist demand for overthrowing the present GVN, even though he mouthed the standard line that it is not the Saigon government itself but only "certain people" in it who are unacceptable. Oberemko's approach supports the impression we gained from Le Duc Tho's 31 May remarks that the Communists would like to put the status of the GVN--and the counterclaims of their PRG--on

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ice for the time being while Hanoi explores with the US terms for a political settlement.

SOVIET AFFAIRS

The latest satellite photography shows construction under way on two new groups of SS-9 missile launchers and one new group of SS-13 missile launchers. This makes five SS-9 groups started so far this year, compared with five starts in 1967 and six in 1968. All six in 1968 were started in the first half of the year.

The new groups bring the total of SS-9 groups completed or under construction to 43. When these groups are completed, probably in early 1971, there will be 258 SS-9 silos. Currently, 28 SS-9 groups--168 silos--are operational. Based on earlier photography it had appeared that 31 groups--186 silos--would be completed by this time, but the pace of construction has not been proceeding as fast as we had expected.

Completion of the new SS-13 group will make 50 silos at Yoshkar-Ola, the only SS-13 missile complex. One group of ten launchers probably is now operational and another soon will be. All five probably will be operational by mid-1971.

The search of photography for other ICBM deployment is continuing.

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MIDDLE EAST

Even before the Israeli airstrikes on Wednesday, Husayn was frustrated by the Jordanian cabinet's failure to face up to the country's major problems, in particular its softness on the fedayeen. [redacted], he recognizes 50X1 that the cabinet's inactivity forces him to take some tough and unpopular measures himself. In an effort to strengthen the cabinet, Husayn plans to insist on certain changes, including if necessary, the removal of Prime Minister Rifai. Even with a much stronger cabinet, however, Husayn will have to make the hard decisions himself.

EUROPE

Mayor Schuetz' trip to Poland last weekend produced nothing earthshaking in the way of improved Polish-West German relations, but Schuetz claims he did get a better reading on Polish attitudes. He says he found an interest in more extensive trade and cultural contact between Poland and West Berlin. His reception was cordial and--by his own account at least--free of political complications. (Other West German officials, particularly those who happen to be CDU members, dispute the latter point. They charge among other things that Schuetz and the Poles between them kept Bonn's official representative in Warsaw from having anything to do with the visit.) It seems clear that the visit was successful enough to permit the SPD to tout it as a modest success for Brandt's eastern policy.

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II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

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COMMUNIST CHINA



PERU

The Peruvian Government is making a detailed study of all US businesses and installations in Peru, ostensibly to arrange to protect them in case of anti-American outbreaks. The investigations may be a follow-on to President Velasco's recent remark that Peru now has its own "amendments" for use if the US should impose economic sanctions. Velasco said the US fishing industry, US sugar producers, and other US activities in Peru would bear the brunt of the sanctions.

In New York on 18 June, Prime Minister Montagne told US Ambassador Irwin that the Ministry of Mines and Energy is ready to announce its decision on the administrative appeal filed by the International Petroleum Company for adjustment of the debt it allegedly owes the state. IPC will have 15 days to appeal the decision to the president.

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FRANCE - SOVIET UNION

A joint Franco-Soviet project to place laser reflectors on the moon is in its final stages. The reflectors, manufactured by Sud-Aviation, are scheduled to be delivered to the Soviets next week, and they should be launched by a Soviet space vehicle a month or so thereafter. The purpose of the experiment is to pinpoint the moon's precise location.

This is one of the more significant of the projects undertaken by the two countries in a variety of fields since 1966. Given the fact that both of them are world leaders in many types of laser research, the experiment is likely to provide considerable amounts of new information.

RHODESIA

The overwhelmingly white Rhodesian electorate votes today on proposals to declare Rhodesia a republic and to introduce a constitution that insures continued white rule. Although a significant minority of the whites apparently will abstain or vote against the proposals, approval seems assured.

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